

Appl. No.: 10/758,788

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

10 **This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.**

1-13. (Cancelled).

14. (Previously Presented) A food and drink managing device with a circulation
type-carrying path for providing containers carrying foods and drinks to customers by an endless
15 circulating carrying path, comprising:

an identification information reading means for reading identification information on
containers, adapted to identify individual containers, and provided near said circulating carrying
path,

at least one sign part circularly moving as linked with said circulating carrying path,

20 a passage detection means provided near said circulating carrying path to detect passage
of said sign parts,

a registering means connected to said identification information reading means and said
passage detection means, which recognizes an interval between passing sign parts as one zone,
and registers the identification information of the containers read by said identification

information reading means, as foods and drinks being supplied in relation to a zone in which the containers exist, and

a container throwing-in prohibited area of a given length provided in an upstream side of the circulating carrying path from a position of the identification information reading means.

5 15. (Previously Presented) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 14, wherein said container throwing-in prohibited area comprises a throwing-in protecting wall along said circulating carrying path.

10 16. (Previously Presented) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 14, wherein said container throwing-in prohibited area comprises a tunnel-shaped-cover that covers the containers.

17. (Previously Presented) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 16, wherein said identification information reading means is positioned inside said tunnel-shaped-cover, and further comprising an electromagnet shield on said tunnel-shaped-cover.

15 18. (Previously Presented) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 14, wherein a plurality of said sign parts are positioned at almost regular intervals on said circulating carrying path.

19-21. (Cancelled).

20 22. (Previously Presented) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 14, wherein said sign part has sign identification information readable by said identification information reading means, and said identification information reading means is combined with said passage detection means.

23-25. (Cancelled).

26. (Previously Presented) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 14, wherein said registering means, when detecting new identification information from said identification information reading means, registers the identification information with related time information in that moment.

5 27-29. (Cancelled).

30. (Previously Presented) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 14, wherein said registering means, when said sign part in a downstream side of said zone passes and the identification information registered as food and drink being supplied in relation to the zone is not detected, changes the record of identification
10 information to a removed food and drink, and registers time information of said record change in relation to the identification information, and further, holds said registration for a specified time.

31-39. (Cancelled).

40. (Previously Presented) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 14, wherein said identification information includes price
15 information of foods and drinks.

41-47. (Cancelled).